

The purpose of GCPA is to promote continued vitality and dignity for older adults.



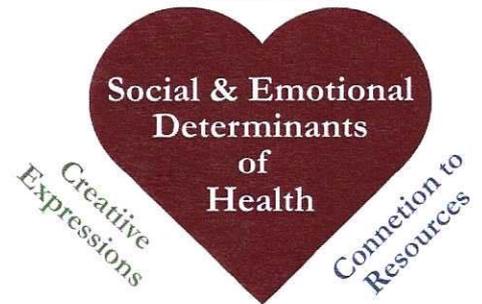
**FUN!**  
Fellowship  
Physical Activities  
Learning  
**FREE!**



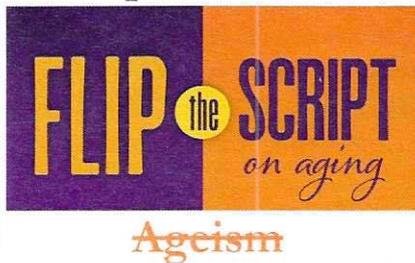
Changing Lives with Opportunities for Hope and Purpose

- “The friendly faces make me smile. I tell people about Graceland- a happy place. It’s a good place to come enjoy the speakers.”
- “Graceland gives purpose to those who do not have any outside engagements. Fellowship, meet friends, and attend events for seniors.”
- “I lived in Peoria 1979-2015. Moved back Feb 2024. Very Solitary. A neighbor referred me to Graceland. It was wonderful to walk into the room and see people. People here and programs are wonderful.”

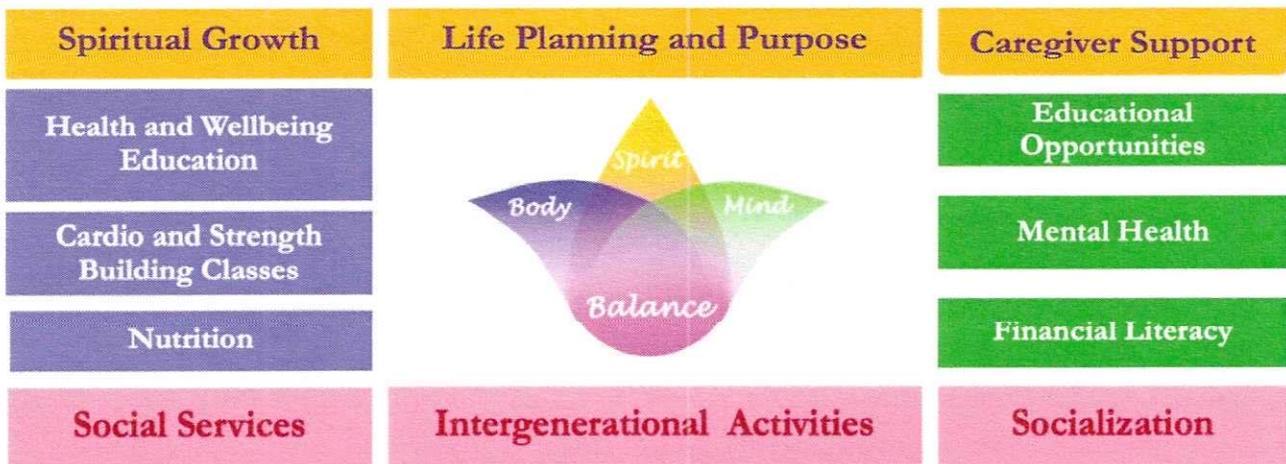
Socialization



Empowerment!



Our goal is to establish a 5 day a week community-based senior center in Peoria that fosters the wellbeing of all older adults in an inclusive, nurturing, invigorating environment where all persons feel respected with dignity and grace and with opportunities to give back to the community.



## Peoria's Visionary Senior Center

## Overview of Graceland Center for Purposeful Aging (GCPA)

**WHAT:** Community-Based Center for Older Adults for the Peoria Area goal to be open 5 days a week, stand-alone center.

**NEW nonprofit** formed and achieved Nonprofit status 501c(3) in 2020

### Mission

The mission of the GCPA is to enhance the lives of older adults through education, connections, and innovation. The goal is to provide a place that celebrates the grace and dignity of older adults.

### Purpose

The Purpose of GCPA is to promote continued vitality and dignity for older adults. The GCPA seeks to address two key problems connected with aging in community.

- 1) Keeping older adults engaged and connected with their community.
- 2) Promoting the ability of older adults to Age in Place as they desire through mental, social, and emotional wellness programming. Community based centers have a proven track record of enhancing the “healthspan” of older adults.

### The Vision of GCPA is:

To advocate and create a culture within the Peoria community which salutes aging as a privilege, Design opportunities for older adults to give back to the community by sharing their gifts, talents, and lived experiences, and Generate experiences to encourage the overall well-being of older adults in an inclusive environment

### WHY: Facts and Need for Community Center for Older Adults (persons age 50 years and above)

Research consistently supports physical, mental, emotional, and social activity for healthy aging

**Peoria is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest city in Illinois and the ONLY ONE in the top 20 largest cities without a center designated to promote the wellbeing of older adults**

Graceland is a COMMUNITY center with opportunities to socialize, take classes, exercise, and find resources to help.

Graceland is NOT be an adult day care such as Senior World and NOT a residential location or a memory care facility.

**WHO:** Graceland Center for Purposeful Aging seeks to serve those adults in the greater Peoria, Illinois area age 50 years and older.

**WHERE:** Currently renting space at the Life Together Center 3526 N. Sheridan Rd. Peoria, IL 61604

Weekly programs 3 times a week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 10 am to 1 pm

Lunch for persons older than 60 years old served 11:00 am to 11:30 am, reserve one week ahead of time.

### WHEN:

Stepwise “organic” growth

Gather community support and interest

Funding resources based on interest, participation, feasibility

Funding and Support: Grants, presentations, interviews, service gap analysis, stakeholder buy in, donations, fundraising.

### Short term goals 2023-2024

2021-2022 Graceland Gatherings (brief presentation of purpose and short sample program) in various community locations to inform public of what the goal is and continue gathering input regarding program interests and service gaps. **DONE**

2023 CALL to ACTION SILVER SUMMIT April 20, 2023, to engage community stakeholders in this social imperative. **DONE**, successful community engagement and support rendered

2023 AGING WITH VITALITY: regular programming locations throughout 2023 and 2024

### Intermediate goals 2024-2025

Graceland Programs in the community in established locations, currently funded by grants, donations, and fundraising.

Solicit support from grants, community stake holders, city/state/federal resources.

### Long term goals 2025-2030

Central Office with community programs in key area locations with self-sustaining funding, staff, and links to resources

### Current Resources for the community

Check our website often for resources and updates. Gracelandcenter.com is our website, Graceland Center is our Facebook site

Call 833-503-7773 and leave a message. We will call you back shortly.

9.22.25

*enhancing lives of older adults*